

# INFORMATION OF VALUE IN NEW BOOKS ABOUT THE WAR

## "THE REAL KAISER" AND OTHER KAISERS

German Monarch Shares With Von Treitschke the Attention of Theorists.

### PROPHET AND EXPERT BUSY

The books brought out by the war that have come to us in the past fortnight are on the whole of more practical use than many that have preceded them in that they try to answer questions about which people would like to know something. Regarding the putative authors of the war, we have "The Kaiser," edited by Asa Don Dickinson, with many illustrations (Doubleday, Page and Company), a popular biographical account to which many writers have contributed, which tries to be impartial and which may be taken as a fair summary of what was generally known about the German Emperor before the outbreak of the war. Much more amusing is "The Real Kaiser" (Dodd, Mead and Company), a rather resounding outburst of British spleen, in which Wilhelm II. is considered in all his multifarious activities, exhibited vividly in a characteristic anecdote or two, praised for a while and then reprimanded severely for his action. Another sketch of the Kaiser's career, revised to suit the exigencies of war sentiment, but still a fair estimate on the whole, appears under the title "Builder and Sunderer" (H. P. Dutton and Company). The author is George Saunders, Berlin correspondent of the London Times. The reader who remembers his British point of view may obtain a good idea of the politics of the last half century from the volume.

Hardly second to the Kaiser as the cause of the war comes the late Prof. Heinrich von Treitschke, in the opinion of the theorists. His blunt Prussian spirit greatly diminished the value of his works in the eyes of historians; his works were not read in Germany as much as those who quote his name make out; but he undoubtedly had influence on important pupils, chief among them the present Emperor. It is natural that American readers should wish to know what he was and to have some idea of what he wrote. In "Treitschke" (G. P. Putnam's Sons) we have a translation of Adolf Hausrath's biography, which is rather a eulogy, together with a number of essays and lectures on aspects of political history that are now prominent. "Selections from Treitschke's Lectures on Politics" (Frederick A. Stokes Company), translated by Adam L. Govans, gives the notes of one of his most popular university courses at Berlin. It is curious that Treitschke, like many other ultra-Prussian advocates, was himself not a Prussian, and of Silesian descent.

Those who enjoy E. V. Lucas's gentle humor and skilful literary work may regret that the war fever has infected him. This manifests itself in two very distinct forms. In "Swollen-Headed William" (E. P. Dutton and Company), in adaptation of a one time prime favorite of the nursery, "Struwwelpeter," he applies his own talent for caricature to good use. The parodies are very amusing so long as Mr. Lucas sticks to the text, but unfortunately his feelings make him sputter sometimes. In adapting the pictures George Morrow is by no means so clever as Mr. Lucas. His other outburst is a very hastily put together anthology of war verse called "Remember Louvain" (Macmillan and Company; Macmillans), in which Mr. Lucas has rather overstepped the bounds in changing the titles of poems. Milton and Wordsworth sonnets are made to apply to recent events. What Mrs. Howe's "Battle Hymn of the Republic" or Whittier's "Barbara Fritchie" have to do with the European disturbance Mr. Lucas may be able to explain, or what warlike significance there is in Tennyson's "Break, break, break." Mr. Lucas's experience in making anthologies keeps him from admitting any but good poetry, but some of his perverted applications can be excused only by his excitement.

General information on military matters which may be understood with no technical training is provided in "The Modern Army in Action" (McBride, Nast and Company, New York), by Major-General E. O. Ryan and Capt. W. D. A. Anderson. It not only explains the principles of strategy and the use of the various arms of the service, but also describes the practices of foreign countries, such as the German method of training soldiers and the British and German systems of mobilization.

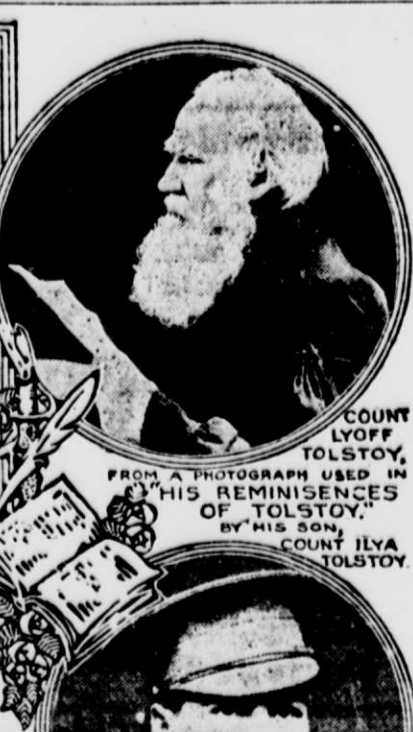
A little book crammed full of useful directions is "Lieut.-Gen. Sir Robert Baden-Powell's 'Quick Training for War'" (Putnam's Sons). It tells the recruit simply and plainly what his duty is, what he is called upon to do first, why drill and discipline are necessary and how he can help to make himself useful as soon as possible.

A businesslike set of pamphlets giving the official information and the newspaper accounts regarding the war that was supplied to France is published under the general title "Pages d'Histoire" (Hachette-Lavault, Paris). The titles indicate what the contents are: those that have covered the period from the last week in July to the first week in September. They are called "La Guerre," "La Tension Diplomatique," "En Mobilisation," "La Journée du 4 Août," "En Guerre," "Les Communiqués," "Les Opérations," "Les Premiers Jours," "Les Derniers Jours." With these comes a pamphlet summary of "Trois Mois de Guerre," by S. R. (Berger-Lévrault).

Two alarmist prophecies that turned out true are published now to prove that their authors knew what they were talking about. In "Germany and England" (Edward J. Clode, New York) Robert Blatchford reprints the letters to the London Daily Mail written at a time when others besides himself were warning England of war. In "Operations on the Sea" (The Outdoor Press, New York), by the Freiherr von Edelsheim, we have a pamphlet describing what a German fleet might do in time of war, and giving examples of the fleet with which armies may be transported. The author's next longest stay is in Manila and the neighborhood, where he visits Hongkong, Macao and Canton. She has quite clear and decided opinions about all she sees. She took interesting photographs as she went



E. ALEXANDER POWELL, AUTHOR OF "FIGHTING IN FLANDERS" (SCRIBNER'S)



HAMILTON GIBBS, AUTHOR OF "THE HOUR OF CONFLICT" (DODD, MEAD AND COMPANY)

still plentiful. Albert Sauveur in "Germany and the European War" (Samuel Usher, Boston) thinks it necessary to refute Prof. Muensterberg. Gerald Stanley Lee blows off steam in "Mount Tom" (Mount Tom Press, Northampton, Mass.). A. G. Glover gives his views as to "How to Build Foreign Trade" in a brief pamphlet (Johnson Printing and Publishing Company, New York).

An amiable and sensible philosopher, who has been unable to refrain from saying what he thought of the war as it progressed, Edward S. Martin of Oxford, has collected his paragraphs in "The War Week by Week" (E. P. Dutton and Company). He is not far out in believing that he is expressing the opinion of most Americans, but the same good humor with which he puts matters is peculiarly his own.

In "A Primer of the War for Americans" (The John C. Winston Company, Philadelphia) Prof. J. William White of the University of Pennsylvania has unfortunately not confined himself to what official statements have appeared, but has engaged also in the hopeless task of reading, summarizing and explaining the views of various estimable gentlemen who have rushed into print as apologists of one side or another.

One of a band of bitterly disappointed men, the journalists who rushed to Europe with the expectation of extinguishing the memory of Bull Run, Russell, Archibald Forbes, MacGahan and the rest, learned that the new art of war has suppressed the war correspondent. Richard Harding Davis, relates his experiences in "With the Allies" (Charles Scribner's Sons). He managed to see many things of interest to those who are watching the war and to say nice things of the persons who befriended him. His dogmatic views about the rights and wrongs of the contest will be taken with much salt by the judicious, allowance will be made for some excitement, and interest will be taken by his admirers in what befell Mr. Davis. He very judiciously limited himself on the whole to what happened to himself, whether it was important or not.

### FOREIGN LANDS.

A man with a hobby is apt to wander into curious and interesting places, and that is what happened to William Gorman Rice in his search for chimes, about which he tells in "Carillons of Belgium and Holland" (John Lane Company). Not all chimes, but those that are played by hand, with a musician at the keyboard, were the object of his quest, and as fate would have it, many of these were in towns that are in the battle line between the contending armies and that have suffered dreadfully: Bruge, Ghent, Antwerp, Mons, Mechlin, Ypres, Dixmude, Louvain, Liège, Namur, Neupont, Ostend. In his list he notes many that have been damaged or destroyed in August and September. The information about the chimes is interesting and very thorough, that about the visits to the towns that contain them is entertaining and the pictures are beautiful.

Just before war was declared Mary Stratton had ready for the press a little descriptive handbook of "Bruges" (B. T. Batsford, Charles Scribner's Sons), for which Charles Wade had prepared 120 illustrations. She seems to have made a sort of architectural pilgrimage, but endures it with history, quotations and descriptions. The drawings are very faithful; they make us think of diagrams in which all poetry is left out, and which almost reconcile one to the damage Bruges may have suffered. To some eyes places undoubtedly look just as Mr. Wade has drawn them.

The glamour of student days in Paris seduced dapper Julius M. Price as he writes "My Bohemian Days in Paris" (David McKay, Philadelphia). He went there in the '80s, a very young British Philistine, studied with Gérôme, and went back to England, apparently still a Philistine. He tells about the ways of art students, has many respectable memories of the Latin Quarter, recalls many practical jokes which are not so very funny in the telling, and chats about models and other chance female acquaintances without saying anything very dreadful about them, for he is a reputable Briton. He enjoyed Paris, which makes his book readable. His point of view may be more that of the commercial traveller than of the artist, but his book will help to make youth anxious to investigate for itself the delights and mysteries that it believes are still to be found on the banks of the Seine.

An entertaining book of travel by Norma Lorimer, "By the Waters of Egypt," is issued after five years in smaller and cheaper form, with sixteen colored pictures by Benton Fletcher (Brentano's). The author went up the Nile to Assuan and visited all the antiquities that travellers turn to, so that her book is a helpful guide. The pictures are good color studies and convey some impression of Egyptian scenery.

along. It is an unpretentious account of personal impressions.

Two well-known books of impressions in tropical lands by Pierre Loti have been translated by W. P. Barnes and are published under the titles "Morocco" and "Siam" (David McKay). Each is illustrated with a few pictures in color and many more in tint. The "Morocco" is the longer and the more important of the two. The "Siam" is the result of a stay in Cambodia. In both the poet has the upper hand of the observer; the reader may see what Pierre Loti is in the habit of looking for.

A pedestrian tour of a portion of England has been undertaken by Edward Hutton, who promises to describe it in four volumes of "England of My Heart" (J. M. Dent and Sons; E. P. Dutton and Company), of which the one at hand with the sub-title "Spring" deals in the main with Kent and Sussex. Mr. Hutton first follows the track of Chaucer's pilgrims to Canterbury, with many literary and historical explanations on the way. His mind is on the distant past and he is too laudatory to mention the moderns who have added fame to the places. He passes on to the Cinque Ports, to Hastings and to Lewes, which give abundant opportunity for his historical fervor. Then very abruptly he takes a train to Winchester and Southampton. The drawings by Gordon Home are delightful and reconcile us to Mr. Hutton's pedantic outbursts.

In "The Modernizing of the Orient," by Clayton Sedgwick Cooper (McBride, Nast and Company, New York), we have a sort of report on the application of Western schooling in the East. The author, apparently made an official tour of inspection on the working of educational systems. He visited Egypt, India, Burma, China, the Philippines, Japan, and tried to find out what effect European education is having on the natives. His impressions and judgments may be rather summary, but they are interesting.

In his capacity as guide, and an extremely pleasant guide he is, E. V. Lucas takes us to Italy again in "A Wanderer in Venice" (Macmillans). He knows Venice pretty well and he knows what has been written about Venice in English even better. In art he has Ruskin to fall back on. He shows the sights of the city conscientiously, leaves out no palace on the Grand Canal, and pictures in the churches or museums. But besides this he has feelings of his own about the charm of the city and the lagoon and the climate which he lets out frequently, about the life in Venice and the history and the famous people who have loved it, especially the English. The colored pictures by Harry Morley are unpretentious and good; the photographs of pictures are well chosen. It is a charming book and a worthy companion of Mr. Lucas's other "Wanderers."

Very timely are the warnings and the advice which A. Hyatt Verrill gives in "South and Central American Trade Conditions of To-day" (Dodd, Mead and Company). First he tells some plain truths about the peoples of South America and the difference in the manner in which they are approached for trade purposes by the Germans and British on the one hand and the American commercial travellers on the other. Next he explains various ways in which the South American markets may be won. Half the book is given up to "facts and figures" regarding the different countries. It is the sort of book that business men who are in earnest will want to read.

### HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY.

A comparatively new field is opened by E. A. Golder in "Russian Expansion on the Pacific, 1641-1850" (The Arthur H. Clark Company, Cleveland), the story of discovery in eastern Siberia and espe-

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